



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE**

September 28, 2000

**S. 2163**

**A bill to provide for a study of the engineering feasibility of a water exchange in lieu of electrification of the Chandler Pumping Plant at Prosser Diversion Dam, Washington**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
on September 20, 2000*

**SUMMARY**

The Kennewick and Columbia Irrigation Districts in Washington use water diverted from the Yakima River. S. 2163 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a feasibility study, prepare an environmental assessment, and acquire right-of-way areas necessary to divert water from the Columbia River rather than the Yakima River to meet the needs of these irrigation districts.

Based on information from the Bureau of Reclamation, CBO estimates that implementing S. 2163 would cost \$6 million over the 2001-2003 period, assuming the appropriation of the necessary funds. Enacting S. 2163 would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

S. 2163 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

**ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 2163 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
<b>CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>					
Estimated Authorization Level	6	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	1	2	3	0	0

**BASIS OF ESTIMATE**

Based on information from the Bureau of Reclamation, CBO estimates that the feasibility study and the environmental assessment authorized by the bill would cost \$4 million, and that the acquisition of right-of-way areas for this water diversion project would cost \$2 million.

Current law authorizes the appropriation of \$4 million for an electrification project at the Chandler pumping plant. Although S. 2163 authorizes the exchange of water as an alternative to this electrification project, appropriated funds for the electrification project have already been spent by the bureau to study this project and on other activities. Consequently, S. 2163 provides new authority to study the exchange of water from the Yakima to the Columbia River and for the acquisition of right-of-way areas.

**PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS:** None.

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT**

S. 2163 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

**PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE**

On September 20, 2000, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 3986, a bill to provide for a study of the engineering feasibility of a water exchange in lieu of electrification of the Chandler Pumping Plant at Prosser Diversion Dam, Washington, as reported by the House Committee on Resources on September 19, 2000. These two bills are nearly identical, and their estimated costs are the same.

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